THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The judgement of the Supreme Court delivered on 31-1-90 relates to the definition of term 'weaker sections of the society' in the context of exemptions given under Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976 by the Maharashtra Government. The judgement contains some directions to the Government of India and the Government of Maharashtra. The matter is under examination and necessary action is being taken by the Government.

Review of National housing policy

1387. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the existing national policy on housing and also propose to bring an action plan to tackle the problem; and

(b) to what extent the poor people are likely to be benefited by the new policy on housing?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is keen to introduce specific schemes for increasing the access of the Urban and rural poor to shelter and basic services. It is already operating a number of scheces in the Central Plan for the rural poor belongings to Scheduled Caste|Scheduled Tribes, pavement dwellers in metropolitan cities, and poor households in large cities.

Inclusion of chillies for fixing support price

1388. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to include Chillies for fixing minimum support price; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to implement the same?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Proposals for new railway lines for Andhra Pradesh

1389. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the proposals of new railway lines pending from Andhra Pradesh for consideration; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) A new BG line between Tenali and Patencheru (9.35 km) which had been approved in 1981-82 at a cost of Rs. 5.15 crores is pending due to acute constraint of resources.

Procurement of paddy

1390. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representations have recently been received from Coastal Andhra region regarding the fall of paddy prices well below the minimum support prices in Andhra Pradesh and to open purchase centres by Food Corporation of India to procure paddy; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps are being taken to redress the same?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In consultation with State Government, Food Corporation of India has opened 44 purchase centres. If required, more purchase centres will be opened in the State.